

Calendar No. 715

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2844

To designate Poland as a program country under the visa waiver program established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2004

Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) introduced the following bill;
which was read the first time

SEPTEMBER 24, 2004

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

A BILL

To designate Poland as a program country under the visa waiver program established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Since the founding of the United States,
6 Poland has proven its steadfast dedication to the
7 causes of freedom and friendship with the United

1 States, exemplified by the brave actions of Polish pa-
2 triots such as Casimir Pulaski and Tadeusz
3 Kosciuszko during the American Revolution.

4 (2) Polish history provides pioneering examples
5 of constitutional democracy and religious tolerance.

6 (3) The United States is home to nearly
7 9,000,000 people of Polish ancestry.

8 (4) Polish immigrants have contributed greatly
9 to the success of industry and agriculture in the
10 United States.

11 (5) Since the demise of communism, Poland has
12 become a stable, democratic nation.

13 (6) Poland has adopted economic policies that
14 promote free markets and rapid economic growth.

15 (7) On March 12, 1999, Poland demonstrated
16 its commitment to global security by becoming a
17 member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

18 (8) On May 1, 2004, Poland became a member
19 state of the European Union.

20 (9) Poland was a staunch ally to the United
21 States during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

22 (10) Poland has committed 2,300 soldiers to
23 help with ongoing peacekeeping efforts in Iraq.

24 (11) The Secretary of Homeland Security and
25 Secretary of State administer the visa waiver pro-

1 gram, which allows citizens from 27 countries, in-
2 cluding France and Germany, to visit the United
3 States as tourists without visas.

4 (12) On April 15, 1991, Poland unilaterally re-
5 pealed the visa requirement for United States citi-
6 zens traveling to Poland for 90 days or less.

7 (13) More than 100,000 Polish citizens visit the
8 United States each year.

9 **SEC. 2. RENDERING POLAND VISA WAIVER PROGRAM**
10 **COUNTRY.**

11 Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act,
12 and notwithstanding section 217(c) of the Immigration
13 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187(c)), Poland shall be
14 deemed a designated program country for purposes of the
15 visa waiver program established under section 217 of such
16 Act.

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